

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An anti-sputter fluid flow control apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving a pressurized fluid, allowing said fluid to flow when the pressure of the fluid exceeds a bias level, and preventing fluid flow when the pressure of the fluid falls below the bias level; and

means for increasing and decreasing said bias level.

2. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for receiving a pressurized fluid, allowing said fluid flow to flow when the pressure of the fluid exceeds a bias level, and preventing fluid flow when the pressure of the fluid falls below the bias level, comprises:

a valve body;

said valve body having an intake port, a central channel and an output port;

a valve seat disposed within said central channel; and

a biased valve head;

said valve head configured to allow fluid to flow between said intake port and said output port when the pressure of said fluid is sufficient to overcome the bias on said valve head;

said valve head configured to engage said valve seat when the pressure of the flow of fluid drops to a level insufficient to overcome the bias on said valve head.

3. An apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein said means for increasing and decreasing the bias on said valve head comprises:

a spring configured to be adjustably compressed; and
means for adjusting the compression of said spring.

4. An apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein said means for adjusting the compression of said spring comprises a rotatable member positioned in said valve body.

5. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, further comprising:
a spray nozzle in fluid communication with said output port.

6. An anti-sputter fluid flow control apparatus, comprising:
a valve body;
said valve body having an intake port, a central channel and an output port;
a valve seat disposed within said central channel;
a biased valve head;
said valve head configured to allow fluid to flow between said intake port and said output port when the pressure of said fluid is sufficient to overcome the bias on said valve head;
said valve head configured to engage said valve seat when the pressure of the flow of fluid drops to a level insufficient to overcome the bias on said valve head; and

means for increasing and decreasing the bias on said valve head.

7. An apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein said means for increasing and decreasing the bias on said valve head comprises:

a spring configured to be adjustably compressed; and
means for adjusting the compression of said spring.

8. An apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein said means for adjusting the compression of said spring comprises a rotatable member positioned in said valve body.

9. An apparatus as recited in claim 6, 7 or 8, further comprising:
a spray nozzle in fluid communication with said output port.

10. An anti-sputter fluid flow control apparatus, comprising:
a valve body;
said valve body having an intake port, a central channel and an output port;
a valve seat disposed within said central channel;
a biased valve head;
said valve head configured to allow fluid to flow between said intake port and said output port when the pressure of said fluid is sufficient to overcome the bias on said valve head;

said valve head configured to engage said valve seat when the pressure of the flow of fluid drops to a level insufficient to overcome the bias on said valve head;
a spring configured to be adjustably compressed; and
means for adjusting the compression of said spring.

11. An apparatus as recited in claim 10, wherein said means for adjusting the compression of said spring comprises a rotatable member positioned in said valve body.

12. An apparatus as recited in claim 10 or 11, further comprising:
a spray nozzle in fluid communication with said output port.

13. An anti-sputter fluid flow control apparatus, comprising:
a valve body;
said valve body having an intake port, a central channel and an output port;
a valve seat disposed within said central channel;
a biased valve head;
said valve head configured to allow fluid to flow between said intake port and said output port when the pressure of said fluid is sufficient to overcome the bias on said valve head;
said valve head configured to engage said valve seat when the pressure of the flow of fluid drops to a level insufficient to overcome the bias on said valve head;

a spring configured to be adjustably compressed; and
a rotatable member positioned in said valve body and configured for adjusting the compression of said spring.

14. An apparatus as recited in claim 13, further comprising:
a spray nozzle in fluid communication with said output port.

15. An anti-sputter fluid flow control apparatus, comprising:
a valve body;
said valve body having an intake port, a central channel and an output port;
a valve seat disposed within said central channel;
a biased valve head;
said valve head configured to allow fluid to flow between said intake port and said output port when the pressure of said fluid is sufficient to overcome the bias on said valve head;
said valve head configured to engage said valve seat when the pressure of the flow of fluid drops to a level insufficient to overcome the bias on said valve head;
a spring configured to be adjustably compressed;
a rotatable member positioned in said valve body and configured for adjusting the compression of said spring; and
a spray nozzle in fluid communication with said output port.